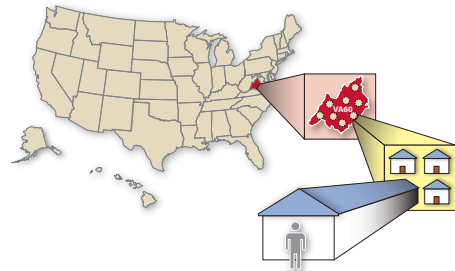


The NSDUH Report

Data Spotlight

May 15, 2014



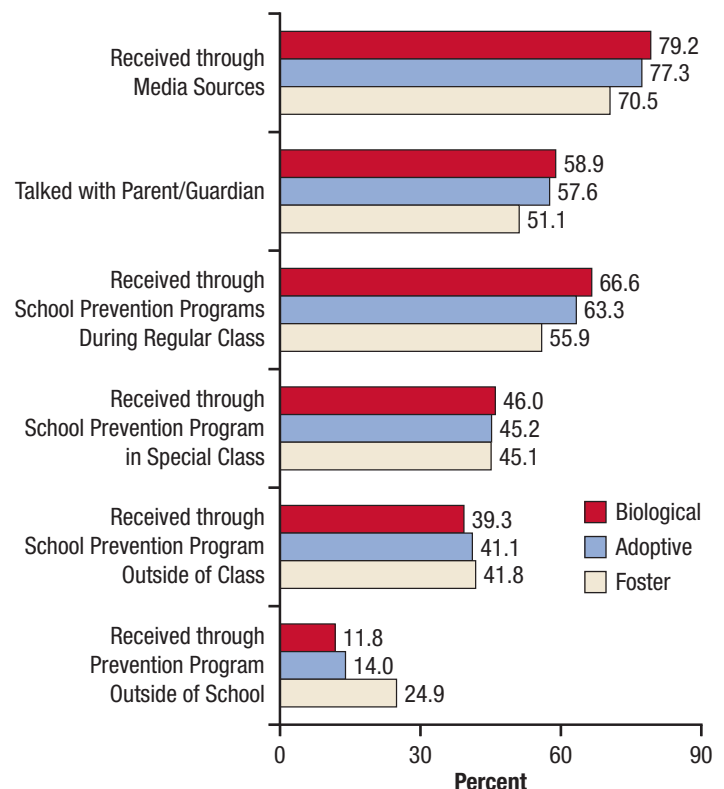
Teens in Foster Care Are Less Likely to Talk with Parent or Guardian about the Dangers of Substance Use

Nearly 400,000 U.S. children and youths live in foster care.¹ These young people are at heightened risk for substance use.² Youths in foster care often change homes and schools, and this may disrupt their exposure to prevention messages.

The 2002 to 2012 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs) show that adolescents aged 12 to 17 in foster care were less likely than those living with biological or adoptive parents to talk with a parent or guardian about the dangers of drug and alcohol use.³ Adolescents in foster care were also less likely to report seeing media messages about the dangers of substance use and to report participating in school-based prevention programs during regular class compared with adolescents who were not in foster care. However, youths living in foster care were more likely than other youths to participate in substance use prevention programs outside of school.

These results suggest foster care programs may want to offer evidence-based substance abuse prevention programs to foster parents and families. For more information on these programs, please visit <http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/>.

Receipt of Substance Use Prevention Messages in the Past Year among Adolescents Aged 12 to 17: 2002 to 2012



1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, Children's Bureau. (2013). *The AFCARS report*. Retrieved from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport20.pdf>

2. Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2005). *The NSDUH Report: Substance use and need for treatment among youths who have been in foster care*. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Retrieved from <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/2k5/fosterCare/fosterCare.htm>

3. Youths living with a foster parent/guardian or who had stayed overnight in foster care in the past year were categorized as being in foster care. Youths living with an adopted parent and who had not stayed overnight in foster care in the past year were categorized as being in adoptive care. Youths living with both a foster and adopted parent were excluded from the analysis. All other youths were categorized as living with a biological parent. A single question was used to assess whether youths had talked to a parent/guardian about the dangers of drug use. Youths were not asked to distinguish whether they talked with a biological, adoptive, or foster parent/guardian or whether they had talked with more than one parent/guardian.

Source: National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs), 2002 to 2005, 2006 to 2010 (revised March 2012), and 2011 to 2012. The NSDUH is an annual survey sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The survey collects data by administering questionnaires to a representative sample of the population through face-to-face interviews at their places of residence.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation. SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities. The **Data Spotlight** may be copied without permission. Citation of the source is appreciated. Find this report and those on similar topics online at <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/>.

